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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,733	01/10/2001	Agner Pedersen	00249	6844
7590	04/27/2004		EXAMINER	
Amir H. Behnia Dennison, Schultz, Dougherty & MacDonald 1727 King Street Ste. 105 Alexandria, VA 22314			PRONE, JASON D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3724	
				DATE MAILED: 04/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/756,733	PEDERSEN, AGNER	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jason Prone	3724	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lutz in view of FR-723,340. Lutz discloses the invention including a bar notch (32) in a side member (6), a cross member notch (20) on an end of a cross member (10), that the bar notch includes a plane bottom which is parallel with the side surface in the side member (Fig. 2) and two equally long oblique sides with oppositely direct equal inclinations in relation the bottom (30 and 32), that the cross member notch has a plane end and two inclined sides (20), and that the side member can be joined with the cross member by the bar notch fitting into the cross member (Fig. 1) but fails to disclose preliminary punching of the side/cross member at a first depth, secondarily punching the side/cross member at a second depth, that the first depth of the preliminary punching of the side/cross member is less than but similarly oriented to the second depth of the side/cross member. FR-723,340 teaches preliminary punching of the side/cross member at a first depth (Figs. 1-3), secondarily punching the side/cross member at a second depth (Figs. 4 and 5), that the first depth of the preliminary punching of the side/cross member is less than but similarly oriented to the second depth of the side/cross member (It is noted that in order to punch the “frayed” edges, left by the

preliminary punching, a punch with a larger depth must be used to perform the secondarily punching. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided Lutz with a method of producing joints, as taught by FR-723,340, to allow for an alternate method of forming the individual joint connections.

***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Labastrou, LaLone, Winter, IV., Norek, Collins, and Niemela.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Prone whose telephone number is 703-605-4287. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, Mon - (every other) Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 703-308-1082. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/756,733  
Art Unit: 3724

Page 4

JP  
April 22, 2004

*AS*

Allan N. Shoap  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700